

St Petroc's School

Independent school progress monitoring inspection report

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Reporting inspector	Jill Bainton

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Royal Exchange Buildings
St Ann's Square
Manchester
M2 7LA

T: 0300 123 1231
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
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Purpose and scope of the inspection

This inspection was carried out by Ofsted under Section 162A of the Education Act 2002, as amended by schedule 8 of the Education Act 2005. The inspection was conducted at the request of the Registration Authority for independent schools in order to monitor the progress the school has made in implementing its action plan following the previous inspection.

Information about the school

St Petroc's School is an independent preparatory day school and nursery for boys and girls aged three months to 11 years. The school first opened in 1912 and moved to its present site in Bude, in Cornwall, in 1926. The school is a charitable trust that is run by a board of trustees. The school currently has 78 pupils attending full time. There are a small proportion of pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities, although none has a statement of special educational needs. The school was last inspected in November 2010.

A day nursery for under-threes on site, known as Seahorses Nursery, is registered for 38 children of whom 15 may be under two years old at any one time. In addition the school provides an Early Years Foundation Stage education for 24 part-time children in the Kindergarten class and 11 full-timers in the Reception class. Thirty-four children are in receipt of government nursery funding. The school has received capital funding for new early years classrooms and these are now completed and the school plans to use them from June 2011, subject to Departmental approval. The Seahorses Nursery had not been inspected prior to November 2010.

The school aims to 'encourage children to think for themselves as well as being self-disciplined by developing positive attitudes and extending their knowledge'.

Context of the inspection

This visit is to monitor the progress the school has made in implementing the action plan submitted after the inspection in November 2010. This is the first visit since the inspection.

Summary of the progress made in implementing the action plan

The last inspection judged that safeguarding procedures, health and safety arrangements, including security and facilities for those who were ill, were inadequate.

The school was required to improve welfare, health and safety procedures by carrying out checks to ensure that chemicals and hazardous materials were stored

safely in line with Department for Education (DfE) guidance; ensure consistent procedures were adopted in the completion of risk assessments for educational visits; resolve all issues arising from the latest fire safety audit and ensure that staff undertake appropriate fire safety training and that suitable checks are completed annually on all fire extinguishers, safety equipment and portable electric appliances in compliance with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005.

All of the weaknesses have been addressed effectively and all health and safety regulatory requirements are now met. The school carries out detailed checks, which are rigorously monitored, to ensure that all hazardous materials are safely stored in accordance with DfE guidance. Detailed risk assessments are now carried out on all activities to ensure pupils' safety in school and on educational activities outside school. A fire risk assessment has been suitably carried out and all of the issues arising from the latest fire audit have been satisfactorily addressed. All staff have completed fire safety training and checks are routinely carried out on all fire extinguishers, safety equipment and portable electric appliances in compliance with the regulations.

At the time of the last inspection, the school lacked effective safeguarding procedures and were required to confirm the suitability of all staff who work with children and ensure that the single central register met requirements. Procedures did not ensure that staff employed from an outside agency only begin work after the school has received written notification of the completion of checks on the person's identity, qualifications, right to work in the United Kingdom (UK) and confirmation that an enhanced Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) check has been carried out. The proprietor was not ensuring that if a contractual arrangement was made with an employment agency it must supply a copy of the CRB certificate indicating any disclosures. The school does not employ staff from supply agencies. They use self-employed teachers to teach music and sport. All of the required recruitment and staff vetting checks have been carried out on all staff and others to confirm their suitability to work with children. The single central register meets requirements.

The school was required to improve school security; ensure that all teaching areas were safe, and that all chemicals were safely stored, and there were appropriate facilities for those who were ill. The school has improved security and regulations are met. Appropriate measures are in place to ensure that all teaching areas are safe. Hazardous materials, including chemicals, are safely stored. Plans are in place to improve facilities for those who are ill, but at the time of the visit the school lacked an appropriate facility so regulations are not met. Building work to improve provision is planned for summer 2011. It could not be completed while the school is in use.

Compliance with regulatory requirements

The school has made satisfactory progress and now meets all regulatory requirements except one.

As a result of this inspection, the school must take action to meet The Education (Independent School Standards) (England) Regulations 2010¹ ('the Regulations'), as follows:

- Provide appropriate facilities for pupils who are ill, in accordance with regulation 5 of the Education (School Premises) Regulations 1999 (paragraph 23(k)).

¹ www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2010/1997/contents/made

School details

School status	Independent		
Type of school	Preparatory and Nursery		
Date school opened	1912		
Age range of pupils	Three months to 11 years		
Gender of pupils	Mixed		
Number on roll (full-time pupils)	Boys: 48	Girls: 30	Total: 78
Number on roll (part-time pupils)	Boys: 12	Girls: 12	Total: 24
Number of children aged 0–3 in registered childcare provision	Boys: 32	Girls: 25	Total: 57
Number of pupils with a statement of special educational needs	Boys: 0	Girls: 0	Total: 0
Annual fees (day pupils)	£ 5,160 – £8,085		
Annual fees (childcare)	£ 4.20 per hour		
Address of school	40 Ocean View Road Bude EX23 8NJ		
Telephone number	01288 352876		
Email address	office@stpetrocs.com		
Headteacher	Mark Anderson		
Proprietor	St Petroc's School Trust		